

Another Attack of the Public Common School: Lowering Standards for Teachers.

I recall in the 1960's as a Junior/Senior High School principal, a social studies classroom was without a teacher during a school year. No applicants. A bus driver had some college course work, and I found a way to secure a "cadet" teaching certification for him. Not a good situation for students. Not the way to deliver quality education. Not the way to enhance the profession of teaching

In those years, a student could drop out of school and earn more in factory wages than the highest paid teachers in the district. Fortunately, over the decades, certification/licensure requirements have been strengthened and teachers' salaries have increased; hence teaching as a profession has been authenticated. In very recent years, however, states like North Carolina and Florida have lowered entry requirements for teacher certification/licensure standards which is an attack on the profession of teaching. Other states are beginning to follow the North Carolina and Florida model. Would that be acceptable in medicine, law, engineering, etc.? Of course not!

Instead of lowering standards for teacher certification/licensure, politicians should be enacting policies that improve teacher education and make teaching attractive. Teaching as a profession is just as important, if not more important, than medicine, law, engineering, etc. Why the attack on public education and teachers? Ignorance!